(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and when such a fund is likely to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) As a part of proposed amendments to the Emigration Act 1983, a proposal is under consideration for creation of a welfare fund for Emigrants to be funded mainly from Emigration Fees. The welfare fund, when created, may provide for legal assistance to emigrants in their disputes in local courts etc.

Provision already exists for repatriating stranded Indian workers against their security deposits to Protectors of Emigrants in India. Indian Missions also have powers to repatriate a destitute Indian as a part of consuler function after getting undertakings from them that they would refund the amount spent on them on reaching India. Likewise Indian Mission can also put an Indian national in touch with a lawyer but they do not have the authority to bear the lawyer's fees etc.

Restart of Textile mills in Indore and Ratlam

1661. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at any stage, the workers of M/s. Shri Sajjam Mills at Ratlam and M/s. Hope Textiles Ltd., Indore, approached the Union Government with proposals that the managements of these closed units be handed over to the cooperatives of the workers;

(b) if so, what was Central Governments' response thereto; and

(c) what other alternatives are being considered by the Central Government to restart these textile mills with a view to safeguard the interests of the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) A Nodal Agency has been set up under the June 1985 Textile Policy to ascertain whether sick textile mills are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages for mills that are potentially viable. Mills found by it to be non-viable may have to close down permanently. The workers of those mills which close down permanently on or after 6 June, 1985 will be eligible for financial assistance under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme. The Nodal Agency has come to the conclusion that Shri Sajjan Mills, Ltd., Ratlam and Hope Textile Ltd., Indore are non-viable.

Scarcity of rayon

1662. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the scarcity of rayon in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ease the scarcity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The availability of viscose staple fibre and viscose filament yarn through indigenous protection is supplemented by imports under OGL. The Government has issued letters of intent for fresh capacity and is keeping a constant watch.

Identification of bonded labour by voluntary Organisations in MP

1663. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any voluntary organisations of Madhya Pradesh had taken up the work of identification of bonded labour and made requests for their rehabilitation to the Central Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, what action the Central Government has taken in the matter:

(c) whether any voluntary organisations of Madhya Pradesh filed cases before the Supreme Court in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

Indian staff working in foreign missions

1664. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the maltreatment being meted out to the Indian staff working in foreign missions in New Delhi if so, what corrective action has been taken.

(b) whether Government will ensure adequate service rules and conditions for Indians working in foreign missions; and

(c) whether Indian Missions abroad follow any norms in respect of local staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Not many cases of maltreatment of Indian nationals working in foreign missions in New Delhi have been brought to the attention of the Government. Wherever necessary, Government contact the concerned mission in order to ascertain the correct position for any follow-up action.

(b) Government had formulated some guidelines and circulate these to the foreign missions in New Delhi.

(c) Recruitment of local staff in our missions abroad is not limited to local nationals. We also employ Indian nationals in those places where they are available for recruitment. While the pay scales are fixed by the Government of India the power of appointment and dismissal rests with Heads of Mission.

Illegal mining in Bhatti Mines in collusion with police officials

1665. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal mining of red stone sand from Bhatti Mines, Asola, Mehrauli, New Delhi to the tune of about 200 trucks daily in collusion with the local police officials; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against the police officials responsible therefor and also to prevent the business of illegal mining of red stone sand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of instances of illegal mining in South Delhi. It is, however, not correct that this is being done in collusion with the local police officials or any other Government agency.

Frequent, raids are being conducted by Delhi Administration to curb the illegal mining.

Juvenile undertrial prisoners

1666. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of juveniles undertrial prisoners in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to improve the condition of juvenile undertrial prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Information available State-wise regarding juvenile prisoners is given in the attached statement. (*See* below)

(b) 'Prison' being a state subject it is for the State Governments to improve their conditions. The Central Government have referred recommendations of the All India Jail Reforms Committee on the subject to the States for their consideration and implementation and have also sanctioned financial assistance to supplement their efforts in this regard.